

Message Text

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10

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SIL-01 LAB-06 EB-11 OPR-02

OMB-01 SY-10 DRC-01 /109 W
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O R 180330Z JAN 74

FM AMCONSUL UDORN

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 124

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L UDORN 22

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, US

SUBJECT: UDORN SITREP 0900 JAN 18

REF: UDORN 19

1. AIR AMERICA (AA) STRIKE CONTINUES AS WORKERS AT BASE GATES STILL BLOCKING SOME U.S. EMPLOYEES OF AA FROM COMING INTO WORK JAN 18 DESPITE PRESENCE FEW POLICE AT GATES. STRIKERS MET MUCH OF DAY JAN 17 TO HOLD ELECTION OF REPS SCRUTINIZED BY DEPUTY GOVERNOR, PROVINCIAL LABOR OFFICE (PLO) REP, AND CONSULATE LOCAL. STRIKERS ELECTED FIVE NEW REPS TO JOIN TWO FROM GROUP OF FIVE WHO HAD EARLIER SIGNED LIST OF DEMANDS TO COMPANY. ABOUT 1150 OF 1700 THAI EMPLOYEES OF AA PARTICIPATED IN ELECTIONS WHICH REPORTEDLY WERE FAIR.

2. AFTER ELECTION, I MET WITH VICE GOV, PLO, AND SEVEN WORKER REPS TO ARRANGE FOR MEETING ABOUT 0900 TODAY WITH AA VICE PRESIDENT ABADIE. ABADIE INSISTED ON SECRET SITE TO PRECLUDE
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WORKERS FROM SURROUNDING IT TO PUT PRESSURE ON NEGOTIATIONS AS

THEY HAD DONE JAN 14. WE ARRANGED FOR VICE GOV TO PICK SITE THIS MORNING AND GO THERE IMMEDIATELY WITH WORKER REPS TO PRECLUDE LEAK TO OTHER WORKERS. I WILL GET ABADIE THERE.

3. REPS HAVE SCHEDULED MEET WITH STRIKERS AT 1400 TO ANNOUNCE RESULTS OF NEGOTIATIONS. THIS PUTS PRESSURE ON THEM TO BE CONCLUDED IN LESS THAN FIVE HOURS.

4. IN MEETING WITH WORKER REPS YESTERDAY IN PRESENCE VICE GOV I WAS IMPRESSED BY THEIR REASONABLENESS ALTHOUGH WE WERE ONLY DISCUSSING ARRANGEMENTS FOR SELECTING SITE, NOT TOUGHER DEMANDS FOR HIGHER WAGES AND FRINGE BENEFITS. NEW REPS SEEM MORE MODERATE THAN PREVIOUS ONES.

5. AA ALSO HEARD THAT SOME WORKERS WOULD TRY COME TO WORK TO BE IN POSITION SABOTAGE INSTALLATION IF NO AGREEMENT REACHED. HE SENT LETTERS TO POLICE AND VICE GOV ASKING FOR FORCES TO PREVENT WORKERS COME ON BASE ACCORDING JAN 15 AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH WORKERS SAID THEY WOULD NOT GO BACK TO WORK UNTIL SETTLEMENT REACHED. WE HELPED PASS LETTERS TO ADDRESSES AND I ALSO REMINDED WORKER REPS ABOUT AGREEMENT TO CONTINUE STRIKE UNTIL SETTLEMENT REACHED WHICH THEY PROMISED ABIDE BY. NO EVIDENCE THIS MORNING THAT POLICE HAD ACTED IN RESPONSE ABADIE REQUEST.

6. AA WIFE ALSO REPORTED THAT FAMILIES OF AMERICAN EMPLOYEES OF AA THREATENED YESTERDAY THAT IF SETTLEMENT NOT REACHED HOSTAGES WOULD BE TAKEN. I PASSED THIS TO VICE GOV AND WORKER REPS AND ASKED THEM GET THREATS STOPPED. REPS DENIED ANY OF STRIKERS ENGAGED IN SUCH ACTIVITY.

7. AS OF 0915 VICE GOV HAS PROPOSED LOCATION FOR NEGOTIATIONS, BOTH SIDES HAVE AGREED AND ARE PROCEEDING TO SITE. BROH-KAHN. GDS.

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